

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (original) A method of cutting steel with a
2 cutting torch to reduce slag adherence to a cut edge of
3 the steel, comprising steps of:
4 commencing a cut at a first side of the steel;
5 moving the cutting torch in an arcuate path shaped
6 to continuously aim a cutting flame of the cutting torch
7 at a fixed point located at a bottom of the first side of
8 the steel; and
9 following the arcuate path to keep the cutting flame
10 aimed at the fixed point until the steel is cut.

1 2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1
2 further comprising steps of moving the cutting torch
3 transversely relative to the steel, while maintaining the
4 cutting torch stationary relative to a longitudinal axis
5 of the steel.

1 3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1
2 further comprising steps of synchronously moving the
3 cutting torch and the steel in a direction parallel with
4 a longitudinal axis of the steel, while moving the
5 cutting torch transversely relative to the steel along
6 the arcuate path.

1 4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1
2 further comprising a step of returning the cutting torch
3 to a starting position after the steel is cut.

Claims 5 - 17 (Cancelled).

1 18. (original) A method of cutting steel billets
2 from a continuous cast steel stand to reduce slag
3 adherence to a cut edge of the billets, comprising steps
4 of:
5 commencing a cut at a first side of the steel
6 strand;
7 moving the cutting torch in an arcuate path shaped
8 to continuously aim a cutting flame of the cutting torch
9 at a bottom corner of the first side of the steel strand;
10 and

11 following the arcuate path to keep the cutting flame
12 aimed at the bottom corner until the steel strand is cut
13 to form the steel billet.

Claims 19 - 20 (Cancelled).